

URGENT MEMORANDUM

2631 '99 MAY 19 P4:42

To: Michael Friedman

Lead Deputy Commissioner Food and Drug Administration

Fax: (301) 443-3100

From:Heather Wood 716 N Street Davis, CA 95616

Date: May 11, 1999

Re: Genetic Engineering

Dear Deputy Commissioner Friedman:

Like many Americans, I am very concerned about the safety of the food I choose to eat. I believe it is my right as a consumer to know if the food I am eating has been genetically altered. Such foods pose unknown risks to the environment, to family farmers, and to my health and the health of my family.

In May, a lawsuit was filed challenging the FDA's policy not to require labels on transgenic foods. I am writing in support of the demands of this lawsuit for safety testing and complete and prominent labels. Consumers should not be made unknowing guinea pigs in the industry's experiments with potentially dangerous foods. I am eager to hear that the F.D.A. is living up to its mandate to protect health and will provide consumers with the information we need about the food we eat.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

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